



USS Crommelin Sailors march during the International Festival of the Pacific... A4

NHAWAII'S NAVY NEWS



Pearl Harbor's Navy College Office gives Sailors the edge in getting a degree... B1

Volume 26 Issue 33

Serving the 'Best Homeport in the Navy'

August 24, 2001

NEX hosts grand re-opening for Halsey Mini Mart

J02 Jim Williams
Staff Writer

"This is just another step in keeping Pearl Harbor the best homeport in the Navy," Capt. R. D. Hughes, Commander, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, remarked at the grand reopening ceremony of the Halsey Terrace Mini Mart and it's new gas station Tuesday morning.

"It's another example of how we're being supported by our Navy Exchange team here in Hawaii," he continued.

The renovated NEX Mini Mart and new gas station cost \$730,559 and is expected to provide service to an estimated 1,500 military members and family members.

The location was initially chosen for its proximity to military families living in the Halsey Terrace, Radford, Doris Miller and Catlin Park military housing areas, but can also be used by any NEX authorized patrons.

"We want to provide the best service for our Navy community," said Mike Cottrell, District Manager of Navy Exchange Hawaii. "That's why we're here - to save Sailors and their families money and provide the best help we can."

The new gas station houses four, canopied fuel dispensers equipped with pay-at-the pump features and a payment system located within the Mini Mart. It also features two above ground fu-

el storage tanks with a total fuel capacity of 18,000 gallons. This includes one tank for regular-grade gasoline, and one that stores premium-grade gasoline. The fuel dispensers are blender type models that are capable of dispensing regular, mid and premium grades gasoline.

A side entrance and a gas payment window have also been installed to better meet the needs of its customers.

In addition to the new gas station project, the NEX updated the interior of the Halsey Terrace Mini Mart.

"It's very gratifying to see this facility finished", said Rear Adm.



J02 Jim Williams photo

▼ See GAS, A-2 The reopened Halsey Terrace Mini Mart and new Autoport.

Victims of AMR fire ready for move to new Navy homes

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Two Navy families, victims of the recent fire at Army housing at Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR), will soon move into new Navy homes. Still collecting the few remnants of their personal belongings that remain, they will start to move on with their lives. In the aftermath of the fire, the process to relocate them to their new homes evolved swiftly and smoothly.

Less than 24 hours after the fire, a Navy housing representative met with the families early Monday morning at the Best Western Plaza Hotel where they were moved following the fire. A plan to relocate the families was soon put into motion. By Tuesday, both of the families were offered homes in Navy housing communities. Arrangements were also made at that time for the actual move-in and the delivery of loaner furniture - scheduled for early next week.

Personnelman 2nd Class Tuan Le, who will become a resident of the Hale Moku housing community, was surprised that the process was so quick. "Everything moved along very fast. We were able to get a house right away," he said. Le, his wife Lylyan and 4-year-old son Christian have received assistance from various support and community agencies, including Army Community Service and the American Red Cross. The family has also been the recipient of outpourings of support from Le's present command, Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), Pearl Harbor and his former command, USS Salvor (ARS 52).

Le expressed his gratitude. "This is our first crisis, but everyone has been so helpful. We are very appreciative for their help and concerns," he said.

"This is a terrible tragedy for all of the victims. It is devastating to lose possessions, but what is most important is

▼ See FIRE, A-2

See also: Renters' insurance is necessary protection... A-12

Battleship Missouri's millionth visitor



J02 Jim Williams photo

Eight-year-old Luke Falon talks with his aunt, Virginia, shortly after finding out he was the one-millionth visitor to board the Battleship Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Aug. 17. Luke received several commemorative gifts from the Missouri including a personalized USS Missouri 'One-millionth visitor' ball cap, a captain's tour, books and videos relating to the USS Missouri, a mounted piece of the ship's teak decking, and passes to several local Hawaiian attractions. The Battleship Missouri Memorial opened in 1999 on the 55th anniversary of the launching of the battleship. Luke is visiting Hawaii from San Diego, Calif.

2001 Ohana Conference is just around the corner

JOC Gerard Sekerak
Editor

With only one week remaining to take the 2001 Navy Ohana Quality of Life (QOL) survey, Ohana program officials are preparing to compile the results for the upcoming Ohana conference scheduled for October 11-12 at the Shipyard Training Center (Bldg. 2).



"The Ohana Conference is important because it allows quality of life issues to be brought to the forefront so that improvements can be made," said Sharleen Proctor, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Ohana project coordinator.

At the conference, delegates from each command review and prioritize the issues and come up with workable solutions. The issues and recommendations are forwarded to commanding officers or program managers for actions. If the issues can be resolved locally, then it is considered a "win" for the Navy Ohana.

Issues that cannot be resolved at the local commanding officer/program manager level are forwarded to the Hawaii Region Flag Quality of Life board for resolution. Feedback on the status of all the issues is provided to the Navy community throughout the year.

The success of past Ohana conferences was dependent on the active participation of the Navy community who took the time to make positive changes.

QOL improvements from past conferences include improved parking at

▼ See OHANA, A-3

Navy Region leaders tour Mall at Pearl Harbor construction site



J03 Tim Walsh photo

(Left to right) Mike Miller, CF Jordan; Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii; Lt. Joe Ring, Flag Aide; Mike Cottrell, Navy Exchange; and Capt. R.D. Hughes, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, look over a diagram of the future Mall at Pearl Harbor.

Jamie Chance
NEX Marketing
J03 Tim Walsh
Staff Writer

Surrounded by fencing and thick black tarp, construction of the Mall at Pearl Harbor is out of view to most people, but two regional leaders put on their quality of life 'hard hats' for a glimpse of the construction progress.

Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii and Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Capt. R. D. Hughes, commanding officer Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Chief of Staff for Commander Navy Region Hawaii, toured the construction site off Radford Drive

Aug. 16.

"The progress on the new commissary and Navy exchange is where we were hoping it would be at this time," Conway said of the construction.

Mike Miller, CF Jordan project manager, and Mike Cottrell, director Navy Exchange Hawaii, escorted Conway and Hughes on their tour. They stood at the future mall entrance where a two-story waterfall will be erected as they discussed the progress of the project.

The foundation has been laid and the outline of the two stores can be identified for the 340,000 square foot Mall at Pearl Harbor which will house a new Navy Exchange and DeCA commissary. A massive green truss marks the division of

the stores and the elevator shafts are already visible. The arrival of the steel beams in September will mark the next project milestone.

According to Miller, the project is 20 percent complete and both the NEX and Commissary are scheduled to open in October 2002. The remainder of the project, including demolition of the old NEX and DECA buildings, landscaping and parking lot paving, will be completed by May 2003.

During the site tour, officials discussed how to minimize the impact of construction on the community and how to maximize access for NEX and DECA patrons.

"From here on the impact the construction will have on

▼ See NEX, A-3